

The House passed the Water Resources Development Act (WRDA) late Wednesday by a vote of 381 to 40. The long-awaited bill calls for improvements to Promontory Point in Chicago, expansion of the "Deep Tunnel" project and upgrades to flood plain maps in the south suburbs.

The measure now goes to the Senate before it is sent to the President for his signature.

"WRDA provides the means to significantly improve many U.S. Army Corps of Engineer projects on the South Side and south suburbs," Rep. Jesse Jackson Jr. said.

WRDA authorizes the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers to provide the planning, construction, and operation of water resource facilities, primarily for flood damage reduction, navigation, and environmental purposes. Three projects will greatly improve the 2nd District of Illinois. The bill specifically contains:

- Language authorizing federal funds to conduct a third party study of how to restore and reconstruct Promontory Point while preserving the historic limestone. The Point has been a significant concern to the Hyde Park community for many years and this language will be a major victory in preserving the Point;
- Language ensuring continued work on the Thornton Reservoir and "Deep Tunnel" project located in Chicago's south suburbs. Completion of this project is essential to the improvement of flood control in the 2nd Congressional district;
- Language authorizing an updating of flood plain maps along the Little Calumet River area in Chicago's south suburbs. Updating the maps to reflect flood-control improvements due to projects such as Deep Tunnel will eliminate the requirement for thousands of homeowners to purchase federal flood insurance.